# Informational Reading and Research — Practice Test

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## Source I - Mapping the Night Sky

*Use this reading for questions 1 to 5.*

Citizen scientists are volunteers who help professional researchers collect data. In one astronomy project, volunteers study photographs of the night sky and mark objects that look like distant galaxies. Computers can scan thousands of images quickly, but human eyes are still better at spotting faint or unusual shapes that software might miss.

The project gives each volunteer a short training guide and practice images with known answers. After training, volunteers classify real images, and each image is checked by several different volunteers. Only when most volunteers agree is an object added to the project catalog. This careful process helps keep errors low.

The results have been valuable. Volunteers have helped identify thousands of galaxies, including some rare types that had rarely been seen before. Scientists say the project also helps the public: volunteers learn how research works, and they gain a deeper interest in science. The project shows that careful teamwork between experts and the public can advance knowledge.

**1** **According to Source I, what is the main idea of the passage?**

- **A** Computers have replaced all human work in astronomy.
- **B** Galaxies can only be seen with the naked eye.
- **C** Training guides are more important than telescopes.

D Volunteers help scientists classify galaxies and advance astronomy research.

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2 **According to Source I, why are human volunteers still useful?**

A Humans never make errors.

B Humans do not need training, since anyone can spot galaxies at a glance.

C Human eyes spot faint or unusual shapes that software might miss.

D Humans work faster than computers.

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**3** **According to Source I, how does the project keep errors low?**

- **A** Only one volunteer sees each image.
- **B** Each image is checked by several volunteers, and only agreed objects are cataloged.
- **C** Volunteers work alone without any checks, and every object they mark is cataloged at once.
- **D** Computers approve every object at once.

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**4** **People use computers at desks in a public library. Which detail best supports the claim that the project benefits the public?**




A Computers scan images quickly.

B Galaxies are distant objects.

C The catalog contains thousands of objects.

D Volunteers learn how research works and gain interest in science.

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5 **What is the author's purpose in Source I?**

A To persuade readers to buy telescopes

B To entertain readers with a fictional galaxy story

C To argue against all computer software

D To inform readers about citizen science in astronomy

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## ANSWER KEY

1. D
2. C
3. B
4. D
5. D

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